

Appl No. 09/445,278  
Amdt. Dated Aug. 22, 03  
Reply to the Office action of April 22, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Kindly CANCEL claim 24 without prejudice to the subject matter involved and kindly amend claims 22, 23 and 28 - 31 as indicated in the listing below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 21 (canceled)

- Claim 22 (amended) A method for verifying the resistance status of a field-grown plant exhibiting a resistance phenotype, comprising
- (a) exposing a population of plants to a pesticidal compound or a plant pathogen under field conditions;
  - (b) collecting those field-grown plants that exhibit a resistance phenotype under field conditions;
  - (c) obtaining plant cuttings from a mother plant collected in step (b) by:
    - (i) cutting a short segment from basal segment of a monocotyledonous mother plant or above ground nodal sections of a dicotyledonous mother plant, wherein these plant cuttings optionally comprise roots and are mother plant such that said segment comprises a short root and shoot fragment and is capable of directly regenerating into a whole and morphologically normal plant,
    - (ii) directly transferring said excised segment plant cutting to a suitable anchorage material; and
  - (d) asexually propagating progeny plant(s) from the plant cuttings obtained in step (c) without passing through a callus phase or involving cell or protoplast culture;
  - (e) incorporating the so obtained progeny plant into a plant screening program between about 7 days to about 14 days after obtaining the plant cuttings, wherein the progeny plant is treated with a pesticidal compound or a plant pathogen; and
  - (f) monitoring the progeny plant for resistance symptoms.

Appl No. 09/445,278  
Amdt. Dated Aug. 22, 03  
Reply to the Office action of April 22, 2003

- Claim 23 (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein ~~said segment comprises a region that contains a high amount of actively dividing cells~~ plant cuttings have about the minimal size still retaining its capability of regenerating into a whole plant.
- Claim 24 (canceled)
- Claim 25 (original 1/27/03) A method according to claim 22, wherein the anchorage material is
- (a) an inert material such as vermiculite, perlite or plastic beads;
  - (b) a culture medium commonly applied in plant cultivation; or
  - (c) soil.
- Claim 26 (original 1/27/03) A method according to claim 22 wherein said method is used within a high through-put format.
- Claim 27 (original 1/27/03) A method according to claim 22, wherein the order of steps (d) and (e) is such that the plant cuttings obtained in step (c) first are
- (i) dipped into a known concentration(s) of a pesticide-containing solution; or, in the alternative,
  - (ii) sprayed with a known concentration(s) of a pesticide-containing solution before progeny plant(s) are asexually propagated from the plant cuttings.
- Claim 28 (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the ~~pesticide~~ pesticidal compound is selected from the group consisting of a herbicide, an insecticide and a fungicide.
- Claim 29 (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the field-grown ~~plant to be tested~~ is a weed plant.
- Claim 30 (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the field-grown ~~plant to be tested~~ is a crop plant.
- Claim 31 (amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the field-grown ~~plant to be tested~~ is a transgenic plant.